

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vaccine comprising an immunogen capable of eliciting an immune response protective against infection by feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) when administered in an effective amount to a susceptible host.

2. A vaccine as in claim 1, wherein the immunogen is inactivated, whole FIV.

3. A vaccine as in claim 2, wherein the immunogen is attenuated FIV.

4. A vaccine as in claim 1, wherein the immunogen is an inactivated cell line which expressed FIV antigens.

5. A vaccine composition as in claim 1, further comprising an adjuvant.

6. A method for protecting a susceptible host against viral infection, said method comprising administering to said host an effective dose of a vaccine according to claim 1.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein the host is a cat.

8. A method as in claim 6, wherein the immunogen is inactivated FIV.

9. A method as in claim 6, wherein the immunogen is attenuated FIV.

10. A method as in claim 6, wherein the immunogen is an inactivated cell line which expresses FIV antigens.

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11. Cell lines chronically infected with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

12. A cell line as in claim 11, comprising feline lymphoid cells infected with FIV.

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13. A cell line as in claim 12, wherein the cell lines are IL-2 independent.

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